

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) Question do not arise.

Scraping of Article 310

501. SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some state Governments have suggested to scrap article 310 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the names of the states; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) According to available information, no such suggestion has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Development of Tals and Diyaras

502. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scientists of Sabour Agriculture University, Bihar have sent a project report to Indian Council of Agricultural Research regarding the development of Tals and Diyaras of the State;

(b) whether similarly a project report for the development of certain Diyaras and Tals of Bachhwar, Teghra, Matihani, Balia blocks and Patna district are pending with the Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A research project proposal has been received recently for funding support by ICAR.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture had deputed an expert team to visit Diara and Tal lands of Bihar State in November, 1996. The team submitted the report and the same is under consideration by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. It is likely to take about 4-6 months time.

[English]

National watershed Development project for Rainfed areas

503. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for covering the area under National Watershed Development Project for the Rainfed Areas during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are considering to reorient the implementation strategy for the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) An area to the extent of approximately 3.5 million ha. is likely to be covered under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas during the IX Plan. State-wise targets will be decided at the appropriate time.

(b) and (c) The Project will continue to promote *in situ* moisture conservation through reliance on low - cost applicable and farmer-friendly measures with the objective of increase in cropping intensity and productivity. the Project will also continue to propagate farming systems approach. Under this Scheme, there will be greater thrust on adoption of locations-specific technology as per the ecological system in the given agro-climatic zone.

[Translation]

Disappearance of Rice and Wheat allotted by Food Corporation of India

504. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether tonnes of rice and wheat released by the Food Corporation of India to be sold under the Public Distribution System have disappeared;

(b) if so, the details of cases detected by The Government in this regard, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the step taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The allocation of rice and wheat to the State Government are made on a month to month basis by the Ministry and the allotted quantity is released to the State Government or their nominees, by Food Corporation of India (FCI). After the stocks are lifted by the State Government or their nominees, its transportation, security and distribution within the state is the sole responsibility of the State Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

"Wood Based Industries"

505. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :